

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS



[IF/THEN Ambassadors](#) Drs. Nina Niu Sanford, Julie Mirpuri, Danielle Robertson, and Kirsten Tulchin-Francis, pictured above, are among the more than 120 accomplished female STEM professionals featured in an [installation](#) aimed at sparking girls' interests in STEM careers. You can see life-sized 3D-printed statues of them at Dallas' NorthPark Center through October.

Message from the Provost and Dean

Welcome to another edition of Academic Connections.

Our main story provides an update on faculty recruitment efforts for the new UT Southwestern School of Public Health. This issue also includes information on how UT Southwestern is celebrating Women in Medicine during September and new resources to support our faculty who are working parents.

I appreciate your attention to this monthly communication and invite you to [share your feedback](#) and ideas for future editions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy".

W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School

Looking Ahead: UTSW School of Public Health

UT Southwestern

School of Public Health

Faculty recruitment is underway for the [UT Southwestern School of Public Health](#), which will join the Medical School, School of Health Professions, and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences as the fourth school of UT Southwestern Medical Center. It will welcome its first class of Master of Public Health students in the fall of 2023, and its first class of Ph.D. students in the fall of 2024.

Interim Dean Celette Sugg Skinner, Ph.D., is [seeking](#) faculty members with expertise in epidemiology, health policy, quantitative and data science, health systems science, health equity, and dissemination and implementation science. We are aiming to build an innovative curriculum that meets the challenges of our times.

We expect that UT Southwestern's unique academic and research opportunities – and our region's large and diverse population – will attract faculty committed to providing the highest level of science-based guidance to optimize the health and well-being of all communities.

The approval of the school by the UT System Board of Regents and the endorsement of the Texas Legislature is a vote of confidence in our institution's ability to successfully develop a 21st-century School of Public Health. Our record has earned us that trust.

Over the years, we have built strong foundational programs relevant to public health, including bioinformatics, computational biology, population and data sciences, and biomedical engineering. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to show the public health applications of these efforts, with the DFW COVID-19 Prevalence Study and the COVID-19 forecasting model for the Dallas-Fort Worth region as prime examples.

Looking ahead, the UT Southwestern School of Public Health will become a preeminent leader in public health education and research, transforming health in North Texas and beyond for individuals, families, and communities to thrive. It is our privilege to fulfill this mission.

Faculty with interest and experience in public health curriculum development should contact Dr. Celette Sugg Skinner, Interim Dean for the School of Public Health.

September is Women in Medicine Month



In recognition of the American Medical Association's Women in Medicine Month, we are celebrating the exceptional contributions, service, and success of female faculty at UT Southwestern.

Visit the [Women in Medicine webpage](#) throughout September to read the stories of some of our inspiring and highly valued faculty. Their efforts help drive the future of health care forward while serving the present needs of our community.

This initiative is led by Drs. Rinarani Sanghavi, Sharon Reimold, Kimberly Kho, Julie Trivedi and Maddy Artunduaga, and supported by the [Office of Women's Careers](#) and the [Women in Science and Medicine Advisory Committee](#) (WISMAC).

Support for Working Parents

Acknowledging the stresses that caregiving can add to our faculty's lives, the Office of Faculty Wellness has launched a [new website](#) with resources to support working parents. These include a new Parent Transition Back to Work Support program designed to guide parents as they return to work after welcoming a new family member into their lives.

The program offers faculty an initial one-hour meeting with Jaime Harry, LCSW, Faculty Wellness Program liaison. She follows up with a

personalized wellness plan for the first three months after the set return-to-work date, intended to help faculty succeed as they navigate their personal and professional responsibilities. To enroll, fill out this [form](#), and Jaime will reach out to arrange a convenient time and place to meet virtually or in person.

Some common themes working parents face covered in this program include:

- Work-life integration
- Time management
- Postpartum depression
- Delegation
- Household responsibilities
- Single parenting
- Divorce and parenting
- Setting boundaries
- Imposter syndrome
- Anxiety
- Dual-income households and balance
- Fatherhood
- Child care
- Raising multiple children



The [Office of Faculty Wellness](#) is committed to promoting a culture of health and professional well-being that empowers our faculty members to reach their full academic and personal potential.

Register Today: Development Opportunities for Faculty

Registration is now open for the following events hosted by the Office of Faculty Development:

[New Faculty Research Forum](#): The two-day forum introduces new faculty to the UT Southwestern academic community and provides the opportunity to showcase research and spark interdisciplinary collaborations.

- [Sept. 14 from 1 to 4:15 p.m.](#)
- [Sept. 29 from 1 to 4:15 p.m.](#)



[Starting University Clinical Careers Effectively, Scholarly, and Successfully \(SUCCESS\)](#) This two-part program helps clinician faculty build knowledge and skills for success in Clinical Excellence, Educational Effectiveness, Scholarly Productivity, and Professionalism and Institutional Citizenship.

- [Sept. 21 from 8 a.m. to noon](#)
- [Sept. 28 from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.](#)

[Demystifying the Promotion and Tenure Process](#): This session provides information to help faculty members understand the academic advancement timeline and criteria for each distinct academic rank and track.

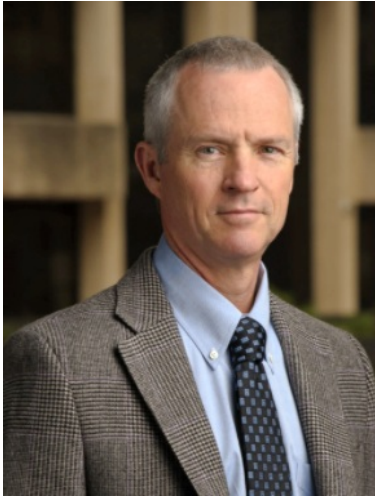
- [Sept. 23 from noon to 1 p.m.](#)

As a reminder, applications are open for [Leadership Emerging in Academic Departments \(LEAD\)](#), which is geared toward junior faculty who aspire to develop their leadership skills. Assistant professors (all years in rank) and associate professors (with fewer than four years in rank) are eligible to apply.

For more information, contact the [Office of Faculty Development](#).

Faculty Announcements

Farewell Dr. David Russell



David W. Russell, Ph.D., Vice Provost and Dean of Research, and the Eugene McDermott Distinguished Chair in Molecular Genetics since 1992, [will retire at the end of the month](#) after nearly 40 years of service at UT Southwestern.

A renowned investigator in basic research and expert in enzymatic mechanisms of lipid metabolism, Dr. Russell's leadership is without parallel in advancing UT Southwestern's research mission. His achievements have been recognized with numerous accolades including his election to both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His commitment to our education mission has influenced the training of scientists around the globe.

As the inaugural Vice Provost and Dean of Research since 2010, Dr. Russell has championed scientific discovery across the campus and ensured that the institution remains at the forefront of modern biomedical research. During his tenure as

Dean of Research, new departments of Biophysics, Bioinformatics, and Biomedical Engineering were created; significant investments were made in imaging at the atomic, cellular, and whole organism levels; research in population and data sciences was expanded; and a generation of biomedical scientists were recruited to the faculty.

We are grateful for Dr. Russell's contributions to our institution. We will miss his collegial demeanor and keen eyes for high-quality science, and wish him all the best in this new chapter.

Staying Connected, Informed, and Involved

Use our social media channels to connect with colleagues and stay in the know about happenings across campus. Visit our [archive](#) to review past editions. Submit your feedback through our [RedCap form](#).

